

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Marcia Carr as the Okaloosa County Educational Support Professional of the Year. Her passion for the students of Riverside Elementary is laudable and her dedication to her profession is exemplary. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Mrs. Carr, and we wish her all the best.

STATEMENT ON BILL TO APPROVE
DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS DE-
SIGNING TO TEST INNOVATIVE
STRATEGIES IN STATE CHILD
WELFARE PROGRAMS

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today, I re-introduced legislation that would allow the Department of Health and Human Services to grant State waivers from certain Federal requirements under the foster care and adoption programs, so States can test innovative strategies to serve children better. Representative GEOFF DAVIS (R-KY) is an original cosponsor of the bill. The legislation is identical to the bill I introduced in September 2010, which passed the House last fall by voice vote. Child welfare waivers will allow interested States to test interventions that help children and families, but they are only a first step toward the comprehensive child welfare financing reform that began with the Fostering Connections Act of 2008. Additional resources and improvements are needed to ensure we provide critical services to all children and families at risk.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to achieve this important goal.

IN MEMORY OF CLARISSA MAE
ROGERS WALKER

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I rise today to mourn the passage of my dear friend and fellow Minnesotan, Clarissa Mae Rogers Walker. Driven by a desire to change the world for the better, Ms. Walker spent her life serving many in need in the Twin Cities community.

Clarissa Walker began working as an operating room technician at the University of Minnesota Hospital. A few years later, Clarissa began working for Sabathani Community Center in 1968. It was at Sabathani that she discovered her passion for social work and she moved up the ladder in the organization because of her dedication and drive. She began as a youth supervisor, moving up the ranks to become a counselor, assistant director, acting executive director, and finally agency director of the Center.

Ms. Walker strengthened the Sabathani community by becoming involved in organizations geared towards helping the disadvantaged. For example: Ms. Walker created and led tax preparation programs which led to

thousands of low-income residents receiving millions of dollars in tax refunds. This program, like so many others she influenced in her community, is still operational today. Ms. Walker was an active volunteer and board member on a number of national and local organizations devoted to social services for low income families.

Ms. Walker proved that one person can truly make a difference in a world where small deeds and individual strength can be overlooked and underestimated. Clarissa serves as an inspiration to all of us and has shown us that one person's determination to help those in need can truly change the world and the way we live in it. Her spirit of gracious fortitude will be remembered in Minnesota, and I ask that we draw on her strength and struggles in the work that we do for the American people at large.

IN HONOR OF PRIVATE FIRST
CLASS ANDREW HARPER

HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, this past week, all of West Virginia experienced a tremendous loss. 19-year-old Private First Class Andrew Harper died from injuries he sustained while serving our country in Afghanistan. It deeply saddens me to see anyone hurt while serving our country, let alone lose their life such as Private First Class Harper did. Andrew was a dedicated hero who defended our country with the utmost dignity and I am proud to call him a West Virginian.

Andrew, a graduate from University High School, was stationed in Kandahar province when he sustained his fatal injuries during a non-combat incident. This brave young man enrolled in the Army to protect our freedom and our country's fundamental beliefs. The true heroes of our time will be these brave men and women who have stood up for America and defended our freedom.

This young man who was from Maidsville, West Virginia served our country with pride and dignity. He represented our community in that same manner. The admiration our community felt for this young man and his service are immense. Andrew's passing has left so many shocked and distraught. This brave young man's life was so very promising. There is no question that Andrew left a great legacy and his memory should be honored.

Andrew serves as a great example of the American spirit. My thoughts and prayers are with Andrew's mother, Deanna Wells of Middleburg, Florida, his father, Steven Harper of Maidsville, West Virginia, his extended family, friends, and his entire unit, the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment as they continue to protect our freedom in Afghanistan.

AMERICAN HEALTH SECURITY ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I believe that there should be a family doctor for every

American family. That shouldn't be hard in the richest country in the world, but it's not a reality for too many Americans. There is nothing worse than having to worry about how you are going to pay for something that you absolutely need like health care.

That is why for the past century, leaders from Teddy Roosevelt, Richard Nixon, Lyndon Johnson, Bill Clinton to President Obama have tried to advance varying forms of comprehensive health care reform. At every opportunity conservatives have warned that ensuring comprehensive care would be the end of freedom and usher in a new era of socialism. Despite this alarmism, Medicare passed in 1965 and thank God for that. Seniors and others such as people suffering from diseases like End Stage Renal Disease have a low cost way of accessing high quality of care.

With the passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) last year, the promise of more access and fairer rules are being realized for all Americans. We have more to do, though. There has been a lot of attention made towards the supposed lack of flexibility in the ACA. States argue, correctly in my view, that they are in the best position to evaluate and address the specific needs of their communities. The ACA gives states a great deal of flexibility, but some states believe they can build on it to do even more to expand access, lower costs and raise the quality of health care. For example, in Vermont, there is a grassroots movement that has swept into the State House to move the State of Vermont towards a single payer system.

The people in Vermont are fed up with insurance companies and want more progress. They think it's ridiculous and shameful for insurance companies to post their highest profit margins ever this year while also charging higher premiums to consumers.

The American Health Security Act I am introducing today would give states the ability to increase quality and get control of costs by taking out the profiteering middle-man—insurance companies—and letting doctors focus on what they do best: treat patients. I believe this bill builds on the ACA by offering states an excellent option in moving our country towards a health care system that finally puts the patient first.

TYLER MARTINEZ TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tyler Martinez of Alamosa, Colorado. Mr. Martinez earned the Youth of the Year award at the Boys and Girls Club of the San Luis Valley for the second year in a row.

It is rare to find a youth like Mr. Martinez who is so involved in helping less fortunate kids. The Alamosa High Junior lends his effort and time to the Boys and Girls Club, though. The fact that he was selected for the honor two consecutive years is a testament to his dedication. As a student and player on the Alamosa High basketball team, it is even more impressive that Mr. Martinez finds so much time to volunteer.

Mr. Martinez will once again enter the statewide competition for Colorado Youth of the